

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /031 W

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P 121059Z JAN 74

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1171

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0232

EXDIS

JERUSALEM FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IS

SUBJ: SAPIR REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FY 1975

REF: TEL AVIV 0230 (NOTAL)

1. AS NOTED REFTEL, FINMIN SAPIR SENT FOR ME AFTERNOON OF JAN 11. HE SAID PRIMIN HAD ASKED HIM TO SEE ME AS RESULT CABLE FROM AMB DINITZ THAT CITED IMPORTANCE TO ISRAEL OF INCLUSION OF AID FIGURE FOR ISRAEL IN PRESIDENT'S FY 1975 BUDGET MESSAGE.

2. WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO SHER 'S "GRAY PAPER," HE RECAPITULATED ISRAEL'S NEEDS AND HOPES IN GENERAL TERMS AND ASKED FOR MY SUPPORT. HE MADE NO MENTION OF ISRAEL'S FRIENDS IN CONGRESS OR OF EFFECTS ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. I TOLD SAPIR I HAD ALREADY PRESENTED MY VIEWS ON SHER'S FIGURES AS REQUESTED BY MY GOVT AND THAT THEY REFLECTED MY JUDGMENT THAT SHER HAD BEEN UNDULY PESSIMISTIC AND PREMATURE IN HIS PROJECTIONS, WHICH STRETCHED TO END OF 1975. I RECALLED PAST PROMPT AND GENEROUS USG RESPONSE TO ISRAEL'S NEEDS, MOST RECENTLY WITH DOLS 2.2 BILLION EMERGENCY SECURITY ASSISTANCE
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LEGISLATION, AND SAID I FELT SURE USG WOULD CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO REAL NEEDS. I PROMISED TO PASS ON HIS REQUEST AND TO HAVE MY STAFF UNDERTAKE FURTHER REVIEW OF PROJECTIONS WITH HIS MINISTRY'S ECONOMISTS. FULL

REPORT WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

4. GOI ALREADY ASSUMES RECEIPT OF WHOLE DOLS 2.2 BILLION AND PRESUMABLY IS AWARE OF ADMINISTRATION'S PLANS FOR MILITARY CREDIT ASSISTANCE, SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, REFUGEE AID, PL 480, ETC. IN FY 1975 BUDGETS. ACCORDINGLY, GOI'S CONCERN REFERS TO ADDITIONAL AID BEYOND THESE. MEANING OF GRAY PAPER TABLES WHICH SHER LEFT WITH NEWMAN (STATE 3184) IS THAT AID CONTEMPLATED IN FY 1975 BUDGET SUBMISSIONS IS NOT ENOUGH; AND WE ARE BEING ASKED TO USE BUDGET MESSAGE AS ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL AID PROGRAMS. WHICH I DID NOT ENCOURAGE HIM TO EXPECT.

5. AFTER RECEIPT OF SUBSEQUENT CABLE FOLLOWING FURTHER STAFF STUDY HERE OF GOI NEEDS; I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING SOME MATERIAL ON WHICH TO BASE REPLY TO SAPIR IN NEAR FUTURE, AND VENTURE TO SUGGEST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS MIGHT INCLUDE SOME SOOTHING GENERAL WORDS ABOUT PRESENT UNCERTAINTY OF ISRAEL'S NEEDS BUT OF POSSIBLE NEED TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS LATER.

KEATING

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